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AUTHOR Bryan, Donna; Forman, David C.
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ABSTRACT

Based on a period of two and one-half years, during which the State University of Nebraska (SUN) has offered 15 multimedia courses to Nebraska learners, this report offers a statistical summary of student characteristics. The courses offered include: Accounting I, Accounting II, Adams Chronicles, American Economy, Anyone for Tennyson, Classic Theatre, Consumer Experience, Freehand Sketching, Fundamentals of Computer Science (Making It Count), History of Nebraska, Home Gardener, Introductory Psychology, Learning Disabilities, Psychology II, and Writing for a Reason. Data were gathered from the registration form and the Student Information Questionnaire. General demographic profile of SUN learners has not changed appreciably since profiles during earlier course offerings. Tabular data are provided on: demographic profile of learners who enroll in one and more than one offering; median age; distribution of sexes; marital status; family status; annual income; size of town resided in; percentage of "homemakers;" highest level of formal education completed; time since last formal educational experience; learners previously enrolled in SUN; highest degree desired; three types of goals; and greatest concern. (LBH)

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CHARACTERISTICS OF SUN LEARNERS

(First Five Offerings)

Statistical Summary No. 4

Office of Research

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH, EDUCATION & WELFARE
NATIONAL INSTITUTE OF EDUCATION

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HE 010 424

Donna Bryan
David C. Forman
University of Mid-America

March, 1977

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STATISTICAL SUMMARY NO. 4

Overview of Courses

Over a period of two and one-half years, SUN has offered 15 courses to Nebraska learners. These courses are Accounting I, Accounting II, Adams Chronicles, American Economy, Anyone For Tennyson?, Classic Theatre, Consumer Experience, Freehand Sketching, Fundamentals of Computer Science (Making It Count), History of Nebraska, Home Gardner, Introductory Psychology, Learning Disabilities, Psychology II, and Writing for a Reason. These fifteen courses have been spread out over five course offerings. A breakdown of the courses in each of the five offerings is as follows:

First Offering - Accounting I, Introductory Psychology

Second Offering - Accounting I, Introductory Psychology, Making It Count and Consumer Experience

Third Offering - Accounting I, Introductory Psychology, Making It Count, Consumer Experience, Freehand Sketching, Learning Disabilities, Classic Theatre, and The American Economy

Fourth Offering - Accounting I, Accounting II, Making It Count, Freehand Sketching, Learning Disabilities, The American Economy, Psychology II, History of Nebraska, Consumer Experience (Special class), and Writing for a Reason

Fifth Offering - Accounting I, Accounting II, Making It Count, The American Economy, History of Nebraska, Home Gardner, Adams Chronicles, Anyone for Tennyson?, Writing for a Reason and Consumer Experience

Accounting I has been offered in all five offerings for 3 credit hours. This course was developed entirely by UMA. It is a multimedia course consisting of a textbook, a study guide, "Checkpoints," fifteen 30-minute television programs, eight 30-minute audio tapes, and sixteen newspaper articles. The

fifteen television programs were not telecast during the fourth and fifth offerings but, instead, were available for viewing on videocassettes at the five learning centers across the state.

Accounting II was offered during the 4th and 5th offerings for 3 credit hours. This is an undergraduate course developed entirely by UMA as a companion to the Accounting I course. It is a multimedia course consisting of a textbook, study guide, seven audiocassette tapes, ten 30-minute television programs and newspaper articles.

The Adams Chronicles was offered in the 5th offering for 2 credit hours. This course surveys the social, political commercial and diplomatic history of the U.S. from 1750-1900. The instructional kit consists of four textbooks. There are twelve 30-minute TV programs.

The American Economy was offered during the 3rd, 4th and 5th offerings for 3 credit hours. This course examines the contemporary American economic system; the course has a practical rather than a theoretical emphasis. The instructional kit includes a textbook, study guide, newspaper articles, and thirty television lessons. The T.V. programs were not televised during the fifth offering but videocassettes were available for viewing at the five learning centers.

Anyone For Tennyson? (A New Approach to the Study of Poetry) was offered during the 5th offering for 3 credit hours. This course was developed by the University of Mid-America. It is a multimedia course consisting of four 60-minute audiocassette tapes, textbook, study guide, viewers notes, thirteen 30-minute televised programs, and newspaper articles.

Classic Theatre - Humanities in Drama was offered during the 3rd offering for 3 credit hours. This course offers the opportunity to see and study masterpieces of drama from the 17th, 18th and 19th centuries. The plays were produced by the British Broadcasting Corporation. It is a multimedia course

consisting of thirteen televised plays, 2 texts, program notes, and newspaper articles.

Consumer Experience was offered during the 2nd, 3rd, 4th and 5th offerings for 3 credit hours. This course was designed and produced by two faculty members at the University of Wisconsin-Green Bay. The course consists of thirty 30-minute television programs, textbook, a student learning guide, and newspaper articles. The thirty TV lessons were not telecast during the fourth and fifth offerings but were available for viewing at the five learning centers.

Freehand Sketching was offered during the 3rd and 4th offerings. No college credit was given for participation in the course. This is a beginning course for persons with little or no previous experience in drawing. The course includes a textbook, an instructional kit, and thirty 30-minute television programs. Students enrolled in the course are given the opportunity to turn in their drawings and have them evaluated by SUN faculty members.

Fundamentals of Computer Science (Making It Count) was offered during the 2nd, 3rd, 4th and 5th offerings for 2 credit hours. This course was acquired from the Boeing Computer Services, Inc., and was presented by SUN with no alterations except for some minor additions to the tests. The course was designed to be viewed by a diverse audience and taken for college credit at the sophomore level. "Making It Count" consists of a text, a two volume student manual and twenty 30-minute television programs. The twenty television programs were not telecast during the fourth and fifth offerings but were available for viewing on videocassettes at the five learning centers.

History of Nebraska was offered during the 4th and 5th offerings for 2 credit hours. This is a special Bicentennial course offered in cooperation with the University of Nebraska-Lincoln (UNL) Extension Division. There is

no television component for this course. The instructional kit consists of three textbooks, a study guide and newspaper articles. Audiocassettes are optional

Home Gardner (Gardening and Landscaping for the Home) was offered during the 5th offering for 2 credit hours. This course is designed to aid anyone interested in growing plants regardless of experience or skill. It is a multimedia course consisting of a text, newspaper articles and thirty 30-minute TV programs.

Introductory Psychology was offered during the 1st, 2nd and 3rd offerings for 3 credit hours. It was developed by Communication Research Machines (CRM) and the University of California at San Diego (UCSD). The University of Mid-America adapted this course for its open learning audience by developing a student guide and test items, and modifying the television programs. It is a multimedia course consisting of a textbook, study guide, newspaper articles, and fifteen 30-minute television programs.

The Characteristics of Learning Disabilities was offered during the 3rd and 4th offerings for 3 credit hours. This course was designed to acquaint teachers, school administrators, parents and others with characteristics of children with learning disabilities. It is a multimedia course consisting of fifteen 30-minute television programs, 2 textbooks, study guide, and newspaper articles. This course was available for graduate or undergraduate credit in the third offering. During the fourth offering, the course was only offered for undergraduate credit.

Psychology II was offered during the 4th offering for 3 credit hours. This is an undergraduate course with credit offered through the University of Nebraska-Lincoln in cooperation with the UNL Extension Division. This course does not require SUN's Introductory Psychology as a prerequisite. The instructional kit includes 4 textbooks, newspaper articles and study guide.

Writing for a Reason was offered during the 4th and 5th offerings. This is a course which teaches basic writing skills. The instructional kit includes a textbook and a study guide. The television component consists of thirty 30-minute programs. The course was offered on a not-for-credit basis.

Sources of Information

There are two primary sources of information about the characteristics of SUN students: the registration form and the Student Information Questionnaire (SIQ). The registration form is filled out once each offering by each learner. It contains very basic demographic data such as age and sex. The SIQ is an extensive five-page questionnaire; to date, it has been returned by 61% of the learners. The SIQ covers general information, previous education, work experience, use of leisure time, resources available for study, student goals, and public relations information.

This report presents the information of most general interest from these forms. The information based on the registration form can be taken as quite an accurate portrayal of SUN's students since such data are available for virtually all SUN's learners. The information from the SIQ's must be viewed with some caution in that not all learners returned these forms. While preliminary analysis indicates that there was no difference between those who did and did not return the questionnaire, it does appear that a slightly greater proportion of women than men filled out and returned their SIQ's. There may be other undiscovered biases. Nevertheless, given a 61% return, the thirteen tables presented herein should provide a fairly accurate picture of our present learners.

Summary of Findings

The general demographic profile of SUN learners has not changed appreciably during the last several offerings. This profile can be summarized as follows:

> The average age of the learner is 37 years and approximately 75% are women. The median income of learners is approximately $11,000. The percent of learners who live on farms, ranches, in small towns and cities follow the general population pattern. About half of the learners have taken some college course work and half have not. Approximately 50% of the learners have not participated in a formal educational experience during the five years previous to SUN enrollment. Career improvement and personal satisfaction goals are most often cited by learners as the most important reasons for enrolling. Approximately two-thirds of all enrollees hope to eventually obtain an academic degree at the undergraduate or graduate level.

There are, however, a few interesting differences between the learners enrolled in the fifth offering and those enrolled previously. At least one of these differences appears to be attributable to the Home Gardner course which accounts for approximately 30% of the total enrollments. People taking the Home Gardner course are older (average of 42 years) and much more interested in personal satisfaction goals than most SUN students. The table which displays goals of SUN students (Table 12a) shows that this is not an isolated trend and that, in general, the balance between personal satisfaction and career improvement goals may be changing.

Several other differences between fifth offering students and other SUN students are probably an artifact of relatively small sample size, but, nevertheless, they need to be mentioned. There are a greater proportion of fifth offering SUN learners with no children and a corresponding fewer number with mostly grown children. Over all offerings, there has been a general decrease in the percent of learners who have older children. A second difference is that a greater percent of fifth offering learners had 1-3 years of college; decreases were noted both in percent of high school and college graduates. In addition, a larger percent of fifth offering learners hope to

obtain a college degree while a smaller percent are graduates of both high school and college. It seems probable that the greater desire for a college degree is related to the increasing number of learners who have had at least some college (1 to 3 years) education. There are also some differences in terms of the problems encountered by SUN learners. The most frequently cited problem is self-discipline and getting down to studying. The percent citing "keeping pace with the SUN schedule" is noticeably smaller than in other offerings; the percent of students citing self-discipline and domestic interruptions is greatest in the fifth offering. It should be repeated that these findings may be a function of skewed distributions and a small sample size

In "Statistical Summary Number 3", we indicated that information on the learners who have taken SUN courses in more than one offering would be presented. In one sense, re-enrollment is an indication of success; because, if learners choose to continue their studies in the SUN program, the courses, at least to some degree, must be serving their needs. It becomes important then to analyze the demographic data on learners who take courses in more than one offering of courses.

As these data indicate, there are some noticeable differences in the demographic profiles for each group. The learners who re-enroll are older and are more apt to live on a farm or ranch. They also have less formal education and have been out of school longer than one-time SUN learners. In addition, more re-enrollees aspire to either associate or bachelors degrees. These characteristics seem to closely conform to the group of learners that open learning programs primarily purport to serve. Other learners, such as those who are younger and primarily reside in large towns or cities, are also served by SUN but largely on a one-time basis. That is, they take a course

TABLE A: Demographic Profile of Learners
Who Enroll in One and More Than One Offering*

	Learners Only Enrolled in One Offering	Learners Enrolled in More Than One Offering
Sex	37	42
Male	26%	22%
Female	74%	78%
Family		
No Children	20%	12%
Mostly Young	44%	48%
Mostly Grown	36%	40%
Residence		
Farm or Ranch	17%	31%
Under 2,000	15%	10%
2,000-10,000	16%	14%
10,000-50,000	15%	13%
Over 50,000	36%	32%
Income	$10-15,000	$10-15,000
Education Level		
Less Grade 11	4%	4%
H.S. Graduate	29%	39%
Trade School	8%	13%
1-3 Yr. College	27%	30%
College Graduate	18%	8%
Graduate Study	15%	7%
Years Since Last Education		
Past Year	26%	22%
1-2 Years Ago	14%	8%
3-5 Years Ago	15%	13%
5 or More Years Ago	45%	58%
Degree Aspirations		
None	37%	30%
Associate	8%	14%
Bachelors	24%	37%
Masters	19%	12%
Ph.D	4%	2%

*For number and percent of learners who enrolled in more than one course offering refer to Tables 10A and B

because it fulfills a particular need; but they are less likely to continue with the program, probably because other educational opportunities are available to them. It could be hypothesized that the older more isolated and less well-educated learner faces a different set of circumstances. For example, learners who are well-educated and have a high academic self-concept often feel little trepidation about participating in other types of educational programs, whether formal or informal. Learners with less education, however, are frequently not as willing to participate in educative activities; and this may explain their tendency to prefer an open learning program which allows them to test their academic abilities in a relatively private and non-threatening context.

These data are open to a number of interpretations and the views cited above may not be substantiated as further evidence is received. But it is important to begin to come to some understanding about what types of students are served on a continuing basis by open learning programs.

Table 1A Means Age of SUN Learners

	TOTAL All Offerings N=2676	First Offering N=617	Second Offering N=343	Third Offering N=883	Fourth Offering N=556	Fifth Offering N=277
Approximate Means Age	37	40	33	37	38	38

Source: Registration Form

Table 1B Means Age of SUN Learners
Fifth Offering

		Approximate Means Age
Accounting I	N=36	32
History of Nebraska	N=29	36
Consumer Experience	N=13	27
Computer Science	N=16	30
Writing for a Reason	N=19	44
American Economy	N=24	33
Home Gardner	N=80	42
Adams Chronicles	N=36	36
Anyone for Tennyson?	N=30	39
Accounting II	N=23	37

Source: Registration Form

Table 2A Distribution of Sexes of SUN Learners

	TOTAL All Offerings N=2729	First Offerings N=617	Second Offerings N=345	Third Offerings N=912	Fourth Offerings N=573	Fifth Offerings N=282
Male	25%	23%	37%	18%	28%	28%
Female	75%	77%	63%	82%	72%	72%

Source: Registration Form

Table 2B Distribution of Sexes of SUN Learners
Fifth Offering

		Male	Female
Accounting I	N=36	36%	64%
History of Nebraska	N=29	35%	65%
Consumer Experience	N=14	78%	22%
Computer Science	N=16	32%	68%
Writing for a Reason	N=20	15%	85%
American Economy	N=25	40%	60%
Home Gardner	N=80	24%	76%
Adams Chronicles	N=36	17%	83%
Anyone for Tennyson?	N=31	19%	81%
Accounting II	N=23	35%	65%

Source: Registration Form

Table 3A Marital Status of SUN Learners

	TOTAL All Offerings N=1709	First Offering N=336	Second Offering N=208	Third Offering N=616	Fourth Offering N=369	Fifth Offering N=180
Single	14%	11%	16%	13%	17%	15%
Married	76%	82%	74%	77%	75%	72%
Widowed, Divorced, Etc.	10%	6%	10%	10%	8%	13%

Source: Student Information Questionnaire

Table 3B Marital Status of SUN Learners
Fifth Offering

		Single	Married	Widowed, Divorced, etc.
Accounting I	N=17	12%	65%	23%
History of Nebraska	N=16	31%	69%	0
Consumer Experience	N= 7	29%	57%	14%
Computer Science	N=11	27%	46%	27%
Writing for a Reason	N=11	18%	64%	18%
American Economy	N=14	14%	79%	7%
Home Gardner	N=52	8%	83%	9%
Adams Chronicles	N=25	16%	64%	20%
Anyone for Tennyson?	N=25	16%	76%	8%
Accounting II	N=15	6%	87%	7%

Source: Student Information Questionnaire

Table 4A Family Status of SUN Learners

	TOTAL All Offerings N=1513	First Offerings N=325	Second Offerings N=179	Third Offerings N=524	Fourth Offerings N=318	Fifth Offerings N=167
No Children	18%	16%	21%	15%	20%	27%
Mostly Young Children	41%	36%	30%	48%	41%	40%
Mostly Grown Children	40%	46%	49%	37%	39%	33%

Source: Student Information Questionnaire

Table 4B Family Status of SUN Learners
Fifth Offering

		No Children	Mostly Young Children	Mostly Grown Children
Accounting I	N=17	24%	47%	29%
History of Nebraska	N=16	38%	31%	31%
Consumer Experience	N= 7	29%	57%	14%
Computers	N=10	50%	20%	30%
Writing for a Reason	N=10	30%	30%	40%
American Economy	N=13	31%	61%	8%
Home Gardner	N=46	24%	28%	48%
Adams Chronicles	N=22	32%	41%	27%
Anyone for Tennyson?	N=25	24%	36%	40%
Accounting II	N=14	14%	57%	29%

Source: Student Information Questionnaire

Table 5A Annual Income From All Sources, Before Taxes, As Reported by SUN Learners

	TOTAL All Offerings N=1520	First Offering N=321	Second Offering N=183	Third Offering N=536	Fourth Offering N=317	Fifth Offering N=163
Less than $1,000	6%	9%	3%	5%	8%	6%
1,000 - 4,000	8%	6%	13%	7%	7%	7%
4,001 - 7,000	10%	9%	15%	12%	8%	9%
7,001 - 10,000	17%	18%	18%	19%	15%	15%
10,001 - 15,000	25%	24%	26%	25%	23%	29%
15,001 - 20,000	16%	17%	14%	15%	18%	13%
20,001 - 30,000	10%	9%	7%	9%	13%	13%
30,001 - 40,000	4%	4%	2%	4%	4%	4%
40,000 +	4%	4%	2%	4%	4%	4%

Source: Student Information Questionnaire

Comment: It appears that some learners have recorded joint family income while others have recorded personal income. Even with this difficulty, it appears that the income of SUN learners is fairly evenly distributed across income levels.

Table 5B Annual Income From All Sources, Before Taxes, as Reported by SUN Learners

		Less than $1,000	$1,000-4,000	$4,001-7,000	$7,001 10,000	$10,001-15,000	$15,001-20,000	$20,001-30,000	$30,001-40,000	$40,001+
Accounting I	N=16	0	6%	6%	13%	25%	19%	12%	13%	6%
History of Nebraska	N=15	13%	0	20%	7%	33%	13%	7%	0	7%
Consumer Experience	N=7	0	14%	29%	14%	14%	14%	15%	0	0
Computer S Science	N=11	18%	0	18%	18%	28%	9%	9%	0	0
Writing for a Reason	N=11	0	9%	18%	9%	18%	9%	37%	0	0
American Economy	N=13	0	8%	0	15%	31%	38%	8%	0	0
Home Gardner	N=44	9%	11%	2%	21%	25%	9%	14%	2%	7%
Adams Chronicles	N=23	4%	4%	9%	26%	23%	17%	13%	4%	0
Anyone for Tennyson?	N=22	4%	9%	9%	14%	32%	14%	14%	0	4
Accounting II	N=14	0	0	22%	7%	50%	7%	0	14%	0

Source: Student Information Questionnaire

Table 6A Size of Town Resided in by SUN Learners

	TOTAL All Offerings N=1725	First Offering N=363	Second Offering N=202	Third Offering N=611	Fourth Offering N=370 m	Fifth Offering N=179
Farm or Ranch	21%	22%	18%	21%	21%	20%
Under 2,000	14%	17%	12%	14%	13%	13%
2,000 - 10,000	15%	15%	13%	18%	13%	13%
10,000 - 50,000	15%	9%	20%	15%	16%	17%
Over 50,000	35%	36%	37%	32%	37%	37%

Source: Student Information Questionnaire

Comment: This demographic distribution closely approximates the general population pattern in Nebraska.

Table 6B Size of Town Resided in by SUN Learners
Fifth Offering

		Farm or Ranch	Under 2,000	2,000-10,000	10,000-50,000	Over 50,000
Accounting I	N=17	29%	6%	18%	24%	23%
History of Nebraska	N=16	19%	6%	12%	44%	19%
Consumer Experience	N=7	14%	29%	0	14%	43%
Computer Science	N=10	10%	0	20%	20%	50%
Writing for a Reason	N=11	18%	0	18%	27%	37%
American Economy	N=14	7%	0	14%	22%	57%
Home Gardner	N=52	25%	17%	10%	8%	40%
Adams Chronicles	N=25	16%	16%	8%	20%	40%
Anyone for Tennyson?	N=25	32%	16%	16%	8%	28%
Accounting II	N=15	7%	20%	27%	13%	33%

Source: Student Information Questionnaire

Table 7A Percentage of Persons Identifying Themselves as "Homemakers" among SUN Learners

	TOTAL All Offerings N=2728	First Offering N=617	Second Offering N=343	Third Offering N=913	Fourth Offering N=573	Fifth Offering N=282
Homemakers	23%	36%	23%	14%	25%	19%

Source: Registration Form

Table 7B Percentage of Persons Identifying Themselves as "Homemakers" among SUN Learners
Fifth Offering

		Homemakers
Accounting I	N=36	14%
History of Nebraska	N=29	21%
Consumer Experience	N=14	7%
Computer Science	N=16	12%
Writing for a Reason	N=20	40%
American Economy	N=25	8%
Home Gardner	N=80	26%
Adams Chronicles	N=36	22%
Anyone for Tennyson?	N=31	26%
Accounting II	N=23	4%

Source: Registration Form

Comment: There has been some difficulty with the interpretation and meaning of "homemaker." If these data are of interest, further analysis must be conducted.

Table 8A Highest Level of Formal Education Completed by SUN Learners

	TOTAL All Offerings N=1734	First Offering N=364	Second Offering N=206	Third Offering N=613	Fourth Offering N=370	Fifth Offering N=181
Less than High School	4%	5%	2%	4%	4%	3%
High School	31%	43%	35%	24%	31%	26%
Trade or Business School	10%	14%	12%	7%	10%	11%
1-3 Years College	27%	27%	29%	23%	28%	38%
College Graduate (4 years)	15%	6%	13%	22%	16%	10%
Graduate Study	12%	4%	8%	20%	11%	12%

Source: Student Information Questionnaire

Table 8B Highest Level of Formal Education Completed by SUN Learners

		Less than High School	High School	Trade or Business School	1-3 Years College	College Graduate (4 years)	Graduate Study
Accounting I	N=17	0	29%	18%	23%	18%	12%
History of Nebraska	N=16	0	19%	0	44%	25%	12%
Consumer Experience	N=7	0	14%	14%	71%	0	0
Computer Science	N=11	18%	18%	18%	18%	18%	10%
Writing for a Reason	N=11	0	55%	18%	27%	0	0
American Economy	N=14	0	7%	21%	64%	0	7%
Home Gardner	N=52	2%	33%	10%	33%	9%	13%
Adams Chronicles	N=14	0	36%	8%	36%	0	20%
Anyone for Tennyson?	N=26	4	15%	0	54%	12%	15%
Accounting II		7	33%	13%	33%	14%	0

Source: Student Information Questionnaire

Table 9A Responses of SUN Learners to the Question: "How many years has it been since you last participated in a formal educational experience?"

	TOTAL All Offerings N=1700	First Offering N=356	Second Offering N=203	Third Offering N=601	Fourth Offering N=362	Fifth Offering N=178
Within past year	25%	15%	24%	32%	21%	27%
Between 1-2 years ago	13%	10%	12%	15%	12%	13%
Between 3-5 years ago	14%	12%	17%	16%	15%	12%
5 or more years ago	48%	63%	47%	37%	52%	48%

Source: Student Information Questionnaire
Comment: These data are, at least to some extent, a function of the age of the learner.

Table 9B Responses of SUN Learners to the Question: "How many years has it been since you last participated in a formal educational experience?"
Fifth Offering

		Within past year	Between 1-2 years ago	Between 3-5 years ago	5 or more years ago
Accounting I	N=17	23%	12%	6%	59%
History of Nebraska	N=16	12%	25%	13%	50%
Consumer Experience	N=7	57%	14%	0	29%
Computer Science	N=11	45%	18%	20%	27%
Writing for a Reason	N=9	0	11%	33%	56%
American Economy	N=14	57%	7%	14%	21%
Home Gardner	N=51	14%	12%	11%	63%
Adams Chronicles	N=25	32%	20%	16%	32%
Anyone for Tennyson?	N=26	54%	11%	4%	31%
Accounting II	N=15	13%	0	13%	74%

Source: Student Information Questionnaire

Table 10A Learners Previously Enrolled in SUN

	TOTAL 2nd-5th Offerings N=2039	Second Offering N=340	Third Offering N=865	Fourth Offering N=552	Fifth Offering N=282
Percent of students previously enrolled in SUN	16%	13%	11%	24%	22%

Source: Registration Form

Table 10B Learners Previously Enrolled in SUN
Fifth Offering

		Percent of students previously enrolled in SUN
Accounting I	N=36	11%
History of Nebraska	N=29	7%
Consumer Experience	N=14	43%
Computer Science	N=16	6%
Writing for a Reason	N=20	20%
American Economy	N=25	24%
Home Gardner	N=80	16%
Adams Chronicles	N=36	25%
Anyone for Tennyson?	N=31	32%
Accounting II	N=23	57%

Source: Registration Form

Table 11A Responses of SUN Learners to the Question: "What is the highest degree you hope to obtain?"

	TOTAL All offerings N=1684	First Offering N=367	Second Offering N=208	Third Offering N=608	Fourth Offering N=337	Fifth Offering N=164
None	36%	38%	34%	38%	37%	25%
Associate Degree or Equivalent	9%	11%	11%	7%	7%	9%
Bachelor's Degree	26%	30%	31%	19%	27%	35%
Some other Degree	29%	21%	24%	36%	29%	31%

Source: Student Information Questionnaire

Table 11B Responses of SUN Learners to the Question: "What is the highest degree you hope to obtain?"
Fifth Offering

		None	Associate Degree or equivalent	Bachelor's Degree	Some other degree
Accounting I	N=14	29%	7%	35%	29%
History of Nebraska	N=15	20%	20%	27%	33%
Consumer Experience	N=7	0	17%	33%	50%
Computer Science	N=8	12%	0	13%	75%
Writing for a Reason	N=11	64%	0	18%	18%
American Economy	N=14	7%	7%	72%	14%
Home Gardner	N=47	38%	11%	25%	26%
Adams Chronicles	N=23	9%	13%	48%	30%
Anyone for Tennyson?	N=24	21%	4%	37%	38%
Accounting II	N=13	16%	15%	46%	23%

Source: Student Information Questionnaire

Table 12A Distribution of Selection of Three Types of Goals as being most important to SUN Learners

	TOTAL All Offerings N=1589	First Offering N=367	Second Offering N=208	Third Offering N=534	Fourth Offering N=325	Fifth Offering N=155
Career Improvement Goals	44%	40%	50%	50%	39%	37%
Personal Satisfaction	38%	34%	23%	38%	46%	48%
Cultural Growth and Development Goals	9%	13%	6%	8%	9%	10%
Other, or no Response	9%	13%	21%	4%	6%	5%

Source: Student Information Questionnaire

Table 12B Distribution of Selection of Three Types of Goals as being most important to SUN Learners

		Career Improvement Goals	Personal Satisfaction	Cultural Growth and Development Goals	Other, or No Response
Accounting I	N=14	64%	29%	7%	0
History of Nebraska	N=13	38%	54%	8%	0
Consumer Experience	N=6	50%	33%	17%	0
Computer Science	N=10	60%	30%	10%	0
Writing for a Reason	N=10	20%	60%	10%	10%
American Economy	N=12	58%	25%	9%	8%
Home Gardner	N=45	16%	70%	9%	5%
Adams Chronicles	N=23	22%	52%	22%	4%
Anyone for Tennyson?	N=22	58%	32%	5%	5%
Accounting II	N=11	64%	27%	0	9%

Source: Student Information Questionnaire
Comment: A number of course-specific trends exist. There are several courses which were taken primarily to satisfy career goals, several for personal satisfaction and several for both reasons.

Table 13A The "Greatest Concern? Most Frequently Cited by SUN Learners

	TOTAL All Offerings N=1155	First Offering N=276	Second Offering N=118	Third Offering N=372	Fourth Offering N=257	Fifth Offering N=132
Academic and learning problems	19%	20%	24%	15%	21%	21%
Program pace, keeping up with SUN schedule	8%	14%	7%	10%	4%	2%
Lack of time and energy	9%	12%	5%	9%	9%	6%
Self discipline: getting down to regular work	16%	8%	14%	15%	20%	24%
Domestic interruptions and demands	10%	2%	7%	8%	18%	17%
Work pressures and responsibilities	8%	5%	10%	7%	10%	13%
Other, or no response	30%	39%	33%	36%	18%	17%

Source: Student Information Questionnaire

Comment: Several of these response categories are not mutually exclusive.

Table 13B The "Greatest Concern" most frequently cited by SUN Learners
Fifth Offering

		Academic and learning problems	Program pace, keeping up with SUN schedule	Lack of time and energy	Self discipline: getting down to regular work	Domestic interruptions and demands	Work pressures and responsibilities	Other, or no response
Accounting I	N=14	21%	0	7%	29%	7%	14%	21%
History of Nebraska	N=16	19%	6%	6%	31%	13%	6%	19%
Consumer Experience	N=6	33%	0	0	33%	0	17%	17%
Computer Science	N=8	0	0	25%	50%	12%	0	12%
Writing for a Reason	N=9	22%	0	0	22%	44%	11%	0
American Economy	N=10	30%	0	0	0	30%	20%	20%
Home Gardner	N=34	26%	3%	6%	18%	15%	15%	17%
Adams Chronicles	N=17	29%	0	0	24%	29%	6%	12%
Anyone for Tennyson?	N=21	10%	0	9%	29%	14%	14%	24%
Accounting II	N=9	22%	0	0	33%	11%	22%	11%

Source: Student Information Questionnaire